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ı	Legs	These continues against the
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Expert Asserts Two Democracies Are United in Fighting for Ideals, But Says French Play Politics Too Much.

BY DAVID LAWRENCE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 7true American can leave the at-sphere of the peace conference at Paris and return to the United States without a feeling of having literally left one world to get back to another so different are the problems of Eu-topean peoples from ours, so different the attitude of their statesmen and difficient, their viewpoint on national orality, and the partnership between governments and private business.

Notwithstanding President Wilson's insistence that a league of nations should be the keystone of the peace eaty, notwithstanding his emphasion the humanitarian idealistic phasethe world settlement, and his argupent that something must be done at now to prevent the world from being plunged anew into a devastating war derived from those two things, were nments professed the same brough their spokesmen, but if had a stenographic record of what has been said at the private con

erences between the heads of governients, it would wonder whether the of peace or a consultation of victors dividing spoils. Certainly the influence of America has been a check upon the tendency which existed at the begin-ning to make the Paris conference nothwith the Americans to prevent the facis conference from patching up only rritorial squabbles and levying an in-mnity on a country that was to be prived of the means of earning that

ndemnity.

President Wilson was successful in retting the league of nations discussed lirst and made a part of the peace treaty itself. He was successful in getting a constitution of the league of nations drafted, which must, of course, lions drafted, which must, of course, be amended and changed in the next few weeks to meet not merely some of the objections raised in the American senate, but the modifications which must surely be proposed by other countries. He was able to get something concrete done in his preliminary visit because of the splendid co-operation given him by Great Britain. It is the single outstanding fact of the peace conference—England and America are working together for the common benefit of mankind. History no doubt will give Mr. Wilson much credit for his initiative at the peace conference and his indeatigable labors to keep the moral tone of the affair lofty, but unprejudiced Americans who were present will unhesitatingly declare that if the peace treaty of Paris is hailed by the World as the greatest advance ever made in international ethics, the idealism and whole-hearted co-operation of men like Premier Lloyd George, Secretary Balfour, Lord Robert Cecil, Genmen ike Premier Loyd George, Secretary Balfour, Lord Robert Cecil, Genmen ike Premier Lloyd George, Secretary Balfour, Lord Robert Cecil, Genmen ike Premier Lloyd George, Secretary Balfour, Lord Robert Cecil, Genmen its Printing and others in the iBritish delegation. British and American with all their family quarrels found themselves kinsnen after all when they touched family quarrels found themselves nen after all when they touched atmosphere of Paris.

French Get Busy.

So pronounced is the entente between representatives of the two English-speaking "democracles that certain French politicians have deemed it wise to stir up a little propaganda, both inside England and France, to the effect that France and England must so hard to stir up a little propaganda, both inside England and France, to the effect that France and England must go hand in hand and must not permit any outside nations to disturb their intimacy. References are made in published articles to the effect that America is far away, wants to cut down the great British mavy, and that really France and England, being neighbors, must combine and stay combined, and so on if Great British finds herself closer to the United States at the peace conference than to France, it is because she prefers to support ideals which men like Sir Edward Grey and other English liberals have for years been endeavoring to implant in European politics and because the French government is today dominated by men who don't have the same faith in liberalism that their colleagues do.

But it is easy to give a wrong impression of France when discussing merely the small class which is temporarily in power in Paris. France is a mixture of many things. American soldiers returning from France are bitter in their criticism of France are hitter in their criticism of France are in league with certain positical leaders and pull the strings of intricate French shopkeepers and merchants—but these are not representative of France. Financiers and special interests who are in league with certain positical leaders and pull the strings of intricate French polities ough not to be projected as the true France. Those socialists who embrace President Wilson as their savior, but who merely represent elements of anarchy and Bolshevism, are by no means representative of the true France and more than the politician who keep an inspired press busy doing their bidding and keep the critical press mussied by a censorship, notwithstanding the fact that France is supposed to be a democracy. These same politicians control the press and what can be pullished in criticism of the present French administration, and they have sectionated the present election, though the French against the present period to hear agents i election, though idministration, and they have sys-ematically opposed attempts to have a general election, though the French parliament ham! been before the peoin nearly four years.

Real France Out.

Unfortunately these are some of the men who talk for France at the Paris conference, but the real France is out in the villages and towns where the brave French poilu dwells. Millions of these heroic men and women survive the most terrible war in history, and no historian probably will ever he shie to picture adequately the won-

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derful stoicism of the Frenchman who fought for his country notwithstanding the fact that he received a few cents a day, while at his side foreign troops received \$30 a month. The people who bore the burdens of the war reflect the soul of France. For them the affection of Americans can never diminish, no matter what the politicians say or do, for there is a day of recked oning coming, probably after the peace conference is over, when distribution of the indemnity and other questions are mooted, when the French people may ask whether the bulk of the money is to go to replenish large business interests as many of which paid such negligible excess profits taxes compared to other countries during the war, or to the people whose relatives and homes were destroyed.

The present French cabinet will not last very long—that is the prediction of those American correspondents of long residence in France, but a sensible liberatism is bound to get control of the government. In the meantime, the present French administration, being really fearful of Bolshevism, is taking what seems to many observers in Paris the wrong way to check it. Instead of allowing the government, autocratic powers given for the duration of the war are tenaciously held. Like certain American cabinet officials, these men forget that the war was supposed to safeguard democracy and not diminish the working of its fundamental institutions.

Press Real Test.

Press Real Test.

Press Real Test.

Take the attitude of the present French government toward freedom of the press, which is as good a test of the press, which is as good a test of democracy as can be offered. Although declaring that there is no censorship on outgoing dispatches, a strict censorship is maintained on everything printed in France. Even newspapers published in the English language, like the American edition of the London Daily Mail or Davis editions of the New York Herald and Chicago Tribune, are subject to censorship. All the dispatches afterican correspondents are read by French censors. Assurances are given that they are not in any way deleted or delayed, but the French censors read them just the same. It's like having some one over your shoulder all the time. On one conspicuous occasion Premier Clemenceau had in his hand a copy of a dispatch sent by an American correspondent and discussed it with President Wilson before the message was permitted to go to America. How many more received that treatment can only be conjectured. On the ground that censorship is in effect simply to distinguish between military and political matters. the Prench justify their censorship. And the American delegation at the peace conference hash had the gumption to make protest or to order the American military consors at the bourse in Perich government permits Paris newspapers to publish insidious attacks on President Wilson and to permit conspicuously reports reflecting on the behavior of American newspapers published a report that American soldiers during the month of December had committed 24 murders.

several hundred assaults, and other crimes in Paris, Aiso it was persistently circulated throughout Paris that an American officer had killed a French officer and had been himself shot by another in a brawl just ground the corner from the American peace mission's headquarters. Neither the report of the murders nor the brawl was true, and Gen. Pershing himself has since issued a denial and a statement of facts. So the French censorship, which so many French officials have attempted to justify to me on the ground that it is necessary to prevent attacks on their allies by irresponsible newspapers, didn't work out at all in that direction, and if the truth were told by the American mission it would have many a complaint to make at the treatment it has received by certain French newspapers said to be in the confidence of the present French administration.

Big Difficulties.

The trouble about reporting the Paris peace conference is that many people there think the war is still on, and that war conditions should continue to prevail with respect to public expression. Up to the time I left Paris it was absolutely impossible for a correspondent to obtain from the French telegraph office a copy of any dispatch he had ever sent, so that he could determine, for example, what time it had been transmitted, or whether it had been transmered with All information of this sort was refused by order of the French government. Many correspendents felt intimidated by the situation Others found themselves called to book by the French in various ways when ever they endeavored to speak in criticism of French proposals. Altogether, there is none of the freedom which newspaper men would have felt had the conference been held in a neutral country. And that is why every now and then a threat to move the conference gets into print. Usually some delegate—not always American—gets provoked at French handling of the censorship question, and the threat is made. Conditions may improve later on, but during the months of December, January and February, the French politicians were doing more to hurt the good opinion of France which most Americana had before reaching Faris than to convince correspondents that they meant, after all, to make a people's peace.

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CHARLESTON-HICKMAN

R. R. LINE IS PUSHED HICKMAN, Ky., March 7, (Spl.)suppl county, across the river from Hickman, and a resident of Hickman, who has returned from a trip Charlesten, Mo., states that the business men of that city are pushing the building the Charleston-Hickman railroad project. One wealthy planter of that section subscribed for \$75,000 worth of the railroad stock and gave them a right of way through his farm, and others are subscribing in proportion, the issue being a live one throughout Southeast Missouri. A goodly portion of the right of way has already been secured. This road, if built, will come to a point just across the river from Hickman, giving Hickman connection with another railroad. Charleston, Mo., states that the busi

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